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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Note verbale dated 3 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and has the honour to transmit the comments by the delegation of the Russian Federation on the Chairman's working paper entitled "Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1) (see annex) and to request that the attached comments be circulated as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

01-32863 (E) 260401

Annex

Comments by the delegation of the Russian Federation on the Chairman's working paper entitled "Draft Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

Replace throughout the draft Programme of Action the terms "spread" and "proliferation" of small arms and light weapons, by the term "trafficking in" and "circulation of" such weapons. The terms "illicit trafficking in" and "illicit circulation of" small arms and light weapons are given in the "Clarification of key terms", annex I to the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/54 V of 15 December 1999, entitled "Small arms" (A/CONF.192/PC/33).

The additions are in **bold**.

The deletions are in [brackets].

I. Preamble

Paragraph 14

Recognizing also the important contribution of civil society in general and non-governmental organizations in particular in [preventing and reducing] ***solving the problem of*** the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and [spread] ***illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation*** of small arms and light weapons,

Paragraph 15

Recognizing further that these efforts are without prejudice to the positions taken by States on, or the importance allocated by them to, the priorities accorded to [nuclear disarmament,] weapons of mass destruction and conventional disarmament,

Alternatively, delete the paragraph.

Paragraph 16

Welcoming the efforts being undertaken at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, **especially those undertaken by affected States themselves**, to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and desiring to build upon these, while taking into account the characteristics, scope and magnitude of the problem in each region,

Paragraph 20 (c)

Placing particular emphasis on the regions of the world where conflicts come to an end and where serious problems with the [proliferation] ***illicit circulation*** of small arms and light weapons have to be dealt with urgently.

II. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Paragraph 2, second sentence

This should include aspects of the [spread,] control, **trafficking**, circulation, trade collection **and** destruction [and reduction] of small arms and light weapons.

Paragraph 9

To assess applications for export authorizations according to strict national [or regional] criteria that cover all categories of small arms and light weapons.

Paragraph 17

To regularly review the stocks of small arms and light weapons held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies and to ensure that such stocks surplus to requirements are clearly identified, [and that programmes for the responsible and expeditious disposal, normally through destruction, of such stocks are established and implemented] and that such stocks are adequately safeguarded until disposal.

Paragraph 18, first sentence

To destroy surplus small arms and light weapons [using internationally accepted and effective procedures and] in accordance with effective and environmentally sound procedures.

Paragraph 30

To develop, **where appropriate**, [appropriate] measures to enh transparency with respect to small arms and light weapons transfers, a confidence-building measure and with a view to combating their illicit trade.

Paragraph 32

Move to section IV, after paragraph 1 (c).

Paragraph 35

To develop international arrangements and [a legally bindin instrun enable timely and reliable tracing of lines of ***illicit*** supply ***of s arms a weapons*** by relevant authorities.

III. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

Paragraph 3

The international community, **upon request of the S** undertakes to render assistance, to the extent possible, to enable of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit tra light weapons in all its aspects as contained in the Programm

IV. Follow-up to the Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Paragraph 1 (c)

To strengthen and further develop measures contained in the Programme of Action, including negotiations of international instruments ***and arrangements*** to identify and trace the lines of ***illicit*** supply of small arms and light weapons.

Add a new paragraph 1 bis based on the language from section II, paragraph 32:

> "We request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, through the Department for Disarmament Affairs, to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis on small arms and light weapons, including national reports, [at appropriate intervals,] on implementation of the Programme of Action."

Paragraph 2 (c)

Further encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to [be engaged as partners as appropriate, in all aspects of] **contribute to efforts on** international, regional, subregional and national [efforts] **levels** to implement this Programme of Action.